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DECISIONS
adopted by the
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
at its
ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1996

(25 January and 6-9 February 1996)

Note: The provisional texts of the decisions are circulated herein for information. The final texts will be issued in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 1 (E/1996/96).

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DECISIONS

1996/201. Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, nominations and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions

1. At its 1st and 2nd plenary meetings, on 25 January and 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council took the following action with regard to vacancies in its subsidiary and related bodies:

Elections postponed from previous sessions

COMMITTEE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND ON ENERGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Council elected William Michael Mebane (Italy) to complete the unexpired portion of the term of Giovanni Carlo Pinchera (Italy), deceased.

The Council postponed to a future session the election of three members from African States for a term beginning on the date of election.

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council elected the following fifteen Member States for a term beginning on the date of election: CUBA, EL SALVADOR, FINLAND, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF), ITALY, MALTA, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, PERU, PHILIPPINES, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, UKRAINE and VENEZUELA.

The Council postponed to a future session the election of five members from African States for a term beginning on the date of election.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Council postponed to a future session the election of one member from African States and two members from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

The Council postponed to a future session the election of one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Council postponed to a future session the election of two members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

The Council postponed to a future session the election of one member from African States and two members from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997 and one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The Council elected the following three Member States: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, MAURITANIA and TUNISIA. 1/

The Council drew lots to determine the initial terms of office of the members of the Board. It was thus decided that the following six States would serve for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1998: CAMEROON, FINLAND, INDIA, PARAGUAY, SWEDEN and TUNISIA; the following six States would serve for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997; HUNGARY, INDONESIA, ITALY, MAURITANIA, NORWAY and PAKISTAN; and the following six States would serve for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996: ANGOLA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, JAPAN, PHILIPPINES, UGANDA and UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Nominations postponed from previous sessions

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

The Council postponed to a future session the nomination of two members from Latin American and Caribbean States and three members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1998, two members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1997, and one member from Western European and other States and one member from Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1996.

1/ The other fifteen members of the Board were elected by the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1995 (see decision 1995/326).

Confirmations

2. Also at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Council confirmed the nominations by their Governments of the following representatives on functional commissions of the Council: 2/

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

ZHANG Sai	(China)
Mian Tayyab HASSAN	(Pakistan)

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Jose Augusto LINDGREN ALVES	(Brazil)
Simon Barmasai Arap BULLET	(Kenya)

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Heike SCHMITT	(Germany)
Mercedes PULIDO DE BRICENO	(Venezuela)

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Sabria BOUKADOUM*	(Algeria)
Marcela Maria NICODEMOS	(Brazil)
WANG Shuxian	(China)
Fady Habib KARAM	(Lebanon)
Zuzana VRANOVA	(Slovakia)

COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Gholamhossein Sadeghi GHAHAREH	(Islamic Republic of Iran)

1996/202. High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council of 1996

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/92 of 16 December 1992 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, decided that the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council of 1996 should be devoted to the consideration of the following major theme: "International cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities".

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* Replacement.

2/ See E/1996/3.

1996/203. Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1996 of the Economic and Social Council

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council, having considered the proposed basic programme of work for 1996 and 1997, 3/ approved the following provisional agenda for its substantive session of 1996:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. International cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities.

Coordination segment

3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

   (a) Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication;

   (b) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the theme of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly;

   (b) Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level;

   (c) Consideration of the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme.

3/ E/1996/1 and Add.1.

General segment

5. Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

(a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance;

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

(d) Human rights questions;

(e) Advancement of women;

(f) Social development questions;

(g) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(h) Narcotic drugs;

(i) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

6. Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

(a) Sustainable development;

(b) Trade and development;

(c) Food and agricultural development;

(d) Natural resources;

(e) Energy;

(f) Cultural development;

(g) Population questions;

(h) International cooperation in tax matters;

(i) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(j) Public administration and development;

(k) Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/106: business and development.

7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

9. Coordination questions:

   (a) Reports of the coordination bodies;

   (b) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

   (c) Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

10. Non-governmental organizations.

11. Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields.

12. New and innovative ideas for generating funds.*

1996/204. Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1997

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following list of questions for inclusion in the programme of work for 1997:

A. High-level segment

[Item/items to be selected]

World Economic and Social Survey, 1996

B. Coordination segment

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes (General Assembly resolution 45/264):

(a) [Theme/themes to be selected]

(b) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the themes of the 1996 coordination segment of the Council

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* See Council decision 1996/210.

C. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

[Theme/themes to be selected]

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 50/120)

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

(b) Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis

(c) Consideration of the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (General Assembly resolution 48/162)

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (General Assembly resolutions 802 (VIII) and 48/162)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (General Assembly resolutions 3404 (XXX) and 50/8)

(d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 33/134) 4/

D. General segment

Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

(a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 46/182, annex) 4/

Oral reports on special programmes of economic and humanitarian assistance

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4/ Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 49/146)

(c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII)) 4/

(d) Human rights questions

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) 4/

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX), 1985/17 and 1995/39)

Report of the Commission on Human Rights (Council resolutions 5 (I) and 9 (II))

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141)

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

(e) Advancement of women

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) 4/

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (LXI))

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide coordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development (Council resolution 1989/105)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/165 on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas 4/

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (General Assembly resolution 50/203) 4/

(f) Social development questions

Report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (General Assembly resolution 44/56) 4/

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session (Council resolution 10 (II))

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (General Assembly resolution 50/81) 4/

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family (General Assembly resolution 50/142) 4/

Report of the Secretary-General on the process of implementation of the objectives of education for all (General Assembly resolution 50/143) 4/

(g) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its sixth session (Council resolution 1992/1)

(h) Narcotic drugs

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fortieth session (Council resolution 9 (I))

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

(i) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 4/

Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1995/53 on consumer protection

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the outcome of the World Food Summit (General Assembly resolution 50/109) 4/

(a) Sustainable development

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifth session (Council decision 1993/207)

(b) Trade and development

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)) 4/

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on trade and environmental matters (General Assembly resolution 50/95)

(c) Science and technology for development

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session (Council decision 1992/218)

(d) Population questions

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirtieth session (Council resolutions 150 (VII) and 1986/7, General Assembly resolution 49/128 and Council decision 1995/209)

(e) Human settlements

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements, including the report of the Commission on progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 43/181) 4/

(f) Environment

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) 4/

(g) Desertification and drought

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolutions on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region and of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (General Assembly resolutions 32/172 and 40/209 and Council resolution 1978/37) 4/

(h) Transport of dangerous goods

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Council resolutions 724 C (XXVIII), 1488 (XLVIII), 1983/7 and 1995/5)

(i) Cartography

Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Council decision 1994/228)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (Council decision 1993/225)

(j) International cooperation in tax matters

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (Council resolutions 1273 (XLIII) and 1765 (LIV))

(k) Women in development

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (General Assembly resolution 42/178) 4/

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session

(l) Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (Council resolution 1993/51) 4/

(m) Statistics

Report of the Statistical Commission (Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L))

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 1979/1), including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and decision 1982/174)

Summaries of the surveys of economic conditions in the five regions, prepared by the regional commissions (Council resolution 1724 (LIII))

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (Council resolution 1995/48)

Coordination questions:

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-seventh session (Council resolution 2008 (LX))

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997, including the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (Council resolution 13 (III) and decision 1980/103)

(b) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made by the United Nations system focal point in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health (Council resolution 1995/62)

Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1296 (XLIV) and decision 1995/304)

United Nations University

Report of the Council of the United Nations University for 1996 5/

Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Calendar of conferences in the economic, social and related fields for the biennium 1998-1999

5/ Will be considered by the General Assembly in 1997.

1996/205. Consideration of reports of intergovernmental bodies

A. Report of the Trade and Development Board

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit directly to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its forty-second session.

B. Report of the Council of the United Nations University

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit directly to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session the report of the Council of the United Nations University.

1996/206. World Decade for Cultural Development

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the letter dated 9 August 1995 from the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, 6/ decided to postpone to its substantive session of 1997 consideration of the biennial progress report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

1996/207. Dates of the third session of the Committee on Natural Resources

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided that the third session of the Committee on Natural Resources, which was to have been held at Headquarters from 4 to 15 March 1996, would be held from 6 to 17 May 1996.

1996/208. Participation of non-governmental organizations at the 1996 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decided to invite, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the outcome of the review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations currently under way, all non-governmental organizations that had been accredited to participate in the Fourth World

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6/ E/1996/6.

Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and were not in consultative status with the Council to participate, respectively, at the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the special session of the Commission for Social Development; those non-governmental organizations should be accorded rights of participation equivalent to those of non-governmental organizations with Roster status, but the according of such rights would in no way confer on those non-governmental organizations Roster or any other consultative status with the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

(b) Also decided that the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries should be encouraged and facilitated, in particular through adequate funding from appropriate voluntary national and international sources.

1996/209. Dates of the 1996 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided that the 1996 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which was to have been held at Headquarters from 6 to 17 May 1996, would be held at Headquarters from 13 to 17 May and from 26 to 30 August 1996.

1996/210. New and innovative ideas for generating funds

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the letter dated 6 February 1996 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, 7/ decided to include in the provisional agenda of its substantive session of 1996 an item entitled "New and innovative ideas for generating funds".

1996/211. Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided to postpone to its substantive session of 1996 consideration of the report of the Executive Director of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) requested by the Council in its resolution 1995/2 of 3 July 1995.

7/ E/1996/14.

1996/212. Enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly provided for the establishment of an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as Assembly resolutions 1958 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 36/121 D of 10 December 1981, 42/130 of 7 December 1987, 45/138 of 14 December 1990, 48/115 of 20 December 1993 and 49/171 of 23 December 1994, in which the Assembly provided for subsequent increases in the membership of the Executive Committee, took note of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 23 November 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland to the Secretary-General, 8/ and recommended that the Assembly take a decision at its fiftieth session on the question of increasing the membership of the Executive Committee from fifty to fifty-one States.

1996/213. Options for resource policies and long-term financing of the World Food Programme

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General 9/ concerning options for resource policies and long-term financing of the World Food Programme.

1996/214. Regional cooperation

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided to consider at its substantive session of 1996, under the item entitled "Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields", in pursuance of Council resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 and taking into account the joint recommendation made by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions pursuant to Council decision 1982/174 of 30 July 1982, the question of "Trends in regional economic and social cooperation, including trade issues and the work of the regional commissions in this regard".

8/ E/1996/5.

9/ E/1995/131 and Add.1.